

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
MARCH 13, 2012

Council President Ralph Duckwall called the meeting to order and Councilman Wiles led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Mull is absent.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MINUTES

None

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS/TRANSFERS

None

COUNCIL ACTION

L.O.I.T ORDINANCE REVISION

Council President Ralph Duckwall stated that this is a special meeting to amend the allocation of the L.O.I.T. taxes. The current allocation of the 1% L.O.I.T. is .5 across the board, .3 homestead and .2 residential. After reviewing a model provided by LSA (legislative services agency), the Council would like to amend it to .5 across the board and .5 residential which should help reduce the loss from the caps.

Councilman Hunt made a motion to amend ordinance 07-15-08B to read .5 across the board and .5 for residential. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

9-1-1

Council President Duckwall informed the Council that they did not need to address the 9-1-1 ordinance because the legislation passed making it 90 cents per device.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Commissioner Jon Faust informed the Council that the recommendation of the Board of Commissioners is that if the people they hire are currently County employees they start at their current salaries. After they become certified they would move to 26,000 and after 6 months they move to 28,000. Mr. Denham, Planning and zoning asked where they came up with those numbers because the law states that the Planning and Zoning Board has the say over the salaries and it doesn't make sense that an employee makes the same amount as a Department Head. He interviewed 30 people and doesn't think he can get anyone to take the jobs for that low of pay. Commissioner Faust stated that they understood and it is only a recommendation.

Councilman Wiles stated he did not want to start them at 28,000 because the County has to pay for the training and the certification. Mr. Denham stated that one person would be totally responsible for Planning and one would be totally responsible for Zoning however they would cross train so they can fill in for each other if one is gone.

Pat Roberts stated that the BOC gave responsibility to the Plan Commission and if the Council does not have \$28,000 appropriated for both positions the contract is void. The salary ordinance will need to be amended as well.

Councilman Wiles made a motion to allow a maximum of 28,000 and let the Plan Board figure out the increments. Councilman Kendall 2nd the motion. Councilman Kendall pointed out that the Surveyor makes less than the two employees in his office. The vote failed 3-3(Hunt, Donaldson, Kendall oppose)

Sara McAuliffe, Assessor stated that she did not feel like this is fair as the employees in her office are mandated to be a Level 2 and the 2nd Deputies only make 23,866.

Randy Hileman, Plan Commission, stated that he believes the economy is getting better and the work in the office will pick up. The fact that the two employees will cross train so they can each do both jobs will make the office much more efficient.

Councilman McAuliffe feels like the County Engineer could help out.

Councilman Hunt stated that he makes approximately 36,000 and he thinks 28,000 is pretty low.

Mr. Denham asked why the Council voted as they did and told them to not just sit and look at him, say what is on their minds.

Councilman Donaldson said he would like to see leader and assistant. Councilman Hunt, who sits on the Planning and Zoning Board, stated that they really wanted 30,000 because a truck driver wouldn't do it for 28,000.

Councilman Hunt asked the Auditor to re-read the last motion. The motion was read and Councilman Hunt made the exact motion again, that the salaries be a maximum of 28,000 with the Planning and Zoning Board deciding the increments. Councilman Kendall 2nd the motion and it passed 4-2 (Donaldson and McAuliffe oppose).

FINALIZING 2012 BUDGETS

Changes to the budgets included:

- Extension from 91,146 to 92,180 to correct one salary

- Circuit Court – move Bailiff to Jury Fee Fund

- Superior I – move Bailiff to Jury Fee Fund

- Probation – loss of one probation officer

- Weights & Measures – 12,600

- Council – 50,250

- BOC – 3,297,750

Total for the 2012 County General Budget – 8,100,316

Council President Duckwall stated that he appreciates all the departments that came forward especially the Board of Commissioner for all the work they did on the budgets. The Board of Commissioners took the biggest hit on the budgets.

Councilman Wiles made a motion to approve the County General budget at \$8,100,316. Councilman Donaldson 2nd the motion.

Susan Rice, Chief Probation Officer, asked the Council not to cut her budget as that would mean she would lose a probation officer which is a matter of public safety. She will not be able to monitor people on probation the way she has in the past. When the public calls her about an issue she will have to tell them she does not have the manpower to do it. Council President said he is not discounting her dilemma and understands it is normal to be angry when you lose staff, but we do not have the money and will probably have to take from rainy day even with the cuts. Judge Dan Banina told the Council that one half of the felons are considered high risk and 54% of the misdemeanors are considered high risk. The vote on the budget was 5-1 (Kendall opposed).

Councilman Hunt made a motion to write a letter to Purdue to ask if Miami County could keep the 3rd agent, at no charge or maybe on a part time basis. As we have one of the strongest programs in the State and do not want to lose that. Councilman Kendall 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

President Duckwall is happy with finally getting the budget settled and will be able to sleep tonight.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None

REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE

Jan Vincent, Extension Office, asked when she will go to part time. Commissioner Francis stated April 1st.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Councilman McAuliffe made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Hunt 2nd the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Lilley
Miami County Auditor